



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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USAID works to sustain and conserve biodiversity as well as mitigate climate change impacts in Uganda by implementing innovative programs in conservation, agroforestry, farmland and watershed restoration and by promoting environmental management best practices.

Background. Uganda is endowed with significant portions of the world's biodiversity and natural resources. However, there are a number of threats and failures that undermine the conservation of these resources. Threats include habitat loss or degradation and unsustainable use of resources, as well as poverty, and institutional policy and market failures. Poor agricultural practices and the lack of alternatives are also to blame. Uganda has a high population growth rate of over 3% per annum. The increasing population continues to depend on natural resources for their livelihood. This precarious situation has attracted local and international interests to assist in the conserving of Uganda's biodiversity and ensuring that people get sustained benefits from the country's natural resources.

Sector-Specific Climate Change Activities. In 2001, the USAID-funded Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST), a legally-constituted national conservation and natural resource management nonprofit institution, was officially launched with the goal of developing sustainable financing mechanisms to support conservation programs. ECOTRUST has assisted communities with growing trees, thereby providing for carbon sequestration. New technologies of energy-saving stoves that use much less fuel wood, and biogas digesters have reduced deforestation while lowering emissions. All these have led to conservation of critical ecosystems such as forests, thereby reducing vulnerability to climate changes. ECOTRUST collaborates with a variety of community, national and international organizations and most recently has worked with research institutions to develop research and build capacity.

In 2004, over 2,400 farmers were trained in the use of improved agroforestry technology; and 81,000 tree seedlings were distributed for timber, medicinal and pole production. Approximately 62,000 agroforestry trees were planted on-farm for fuel wood and soil conservation. A train the trainers program in Kabale helped to scale up farmer skills and knowledge regarding tree nursery management.

In 2004, ECOTRUST, in partnership with the Government of Uganda through the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), piloted the integration of natural resources management into the program. NAADS is a new government program put in place to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of agricultural extension service. It is envisioned that the program will become decentralized, farmer-owned and private sector-serviced, contributing to the realization of the agricultural sector development objectives.

USAID's partners in climate change activities in Uganda include*:

- Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST)
- Government of Uganda
- National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)
- International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
- Uganda Forest Secretariat
- Edinburgh Center for Carbon Management (ECCM)
- Development Alternatives, Inc.

* Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

In 2005, Productive Resource Investment in Managing the Environment (PRIME/West), a project dedicated to conserving biodiversity by reducing threats to forests, woodland and aquatic ecosystems, focused on reducing habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation and overexploitation of species with particular emphasis on illegal woodcutting and illegal hunting in protected areas. During 2005, over 8,000 hectares of forest and wetland ecosystem was brought under increased protection and sustainable management. Almost 700 hectares of farmland was put under shade grown coffee, more than 1,000 hectares of wetland was restored and maintained and approximately 7,000 people were trained in environmental management best practices.

For more information on Uganda, visit USAID's Web site at:

<http://www.usaid.gov>